(b) whether Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 became an Act on 23rd August, 2006 but it cannot be implemented without the setting up of FSSAI;

(c) if so, by when a final decision in setting up Food Safety and Standard Authority of India is likely to be taken; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the long standing demand from various stakeholders including industry, Government has enacted Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 which has been notified on 24.08.2006. The Act envisages setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of articles of food by companies/food business, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare being the nodal Ministry for administration and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 has initiated action for setting up of the authority (FSSAI).

Food processing for Agri-products

4127. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total per cent of agri-products, which are being processed in the Food Processing Industries in different States and the details thereof, State-wise and item-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase further food processing of different agri-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) and (b) According to a study commissoned by the Ministry, the level of processing in the agri and allied products in the organized and unorganized sector in the country is as follows:

Products	Level of processing
Fruits & Vegetables	2.0%
Milk and milk products	35%
Bufallo Meat	20%
Poultry	6%

State-wise and item-wise data in this regard is not available.

The Ministry has been implementing various Plan Schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries and to attract private investment in food processing sector in order to give boost to agro-food processing. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J & K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates i.e. @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for upgradation/ modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticultural produce.

Since one of the major constraints for the low level of processing in agro-food products is lack of infrastructure such as cold chain facilities and inefficient supply chain etc. in the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry will be implementing a revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages at regional level through Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain to be located at Airports, Ports, Railways, etc—having Controlled Atmosphere

storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing.

To promote food processing sector, the Government has also been providing various fiscal and tax incentives. Rationalisation of tax structure is an ongoing process and during the current year's budget various tax incentives have been given to the processed food industry which include -raising of exemption limit of excise duty for Small Scale Industry (SSI) from Rs.1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crores. Excise duty on biscuits whose retail price does not exceed Rs. 100 per Kg. has been reduced from 8% to 0%. Excise duty has been reduced from 8% to 0% on all kinds of food mixes including instant mixes, and on reefer vans (refrigerated motor vehicles) from 16% to 8%.Soya bari (food supplements) and ready to eat packaged foods have been fully exempted from excise duty; Custom duty on reefer vans has been exempted, on food processing machinery has been reduced from 7.5% to 5%, on sunflower oil (crude) from 65% to 50% and on sunflower oil (refined) from 75% to 60%. Special additional duty of 4% has been waived in the case of refined edible oil. Services provided by Technology Business Incubators have been exempted from service tax and similarly their Incubatees, whose annual business turnover does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs have been exempted from service tax for the first three years. The RBI has recently revised upwards the eligibility of food processing units for priority sector bank lending with an investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 10 crores as against Rs. 5 crores earlier.

Adoption of vision document 2015 for food processing sector

4128. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Vision 2015', adopted by Government for the food processing sector, envisages India's potential to achieve 3 per cent share in world trade of agricultural and food products;

(b) if so, the efforts been made by Government to enhance productivity in different States particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(c) the share of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh separately in total productivity;